appreciated by them.

Today-The Aftermath of the RECENT WAR

presents opportunities to Amercan investors such as have never before been witnessed.

We have prepared an interesting letter setting forth some such oppor-tunities, which letter we shall be plad to send upon request for L-450.

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> STANDARD ISSUES

THE EFFECT OF STOCK DIVIDENDS

STANDARD OIL PRICES

WE HAVE PREPARED A CIRCULAR NO. 1-N, GIVING A RECORD OF THE MARKET ACTION, OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, OF STOCKS OF STANDARD OIL COMPANIES WHICH HAVE DECLARED STOCK DISTRIBUTIONS.

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50 City of New York Ins.
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25 Franklin Insurance
25 First National Bank
50 General Baking Com. & Pfd.
25 Great American Insurance
25 Hudson Co. Gas
100 Industrial Finance Pfd.
50 Ingersoil-Rand Com.
24 Lebigh Valley Coal Sules
100 Metal & Thermit Pfd.
25 McCorry Stores Corp. Pfd.
100 N. Y. State Rys. Com. & Pfd.
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100 Nat. Ice & Coal 1st & 2d Pfd.
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100 Relamond Radiator Com.
100 Penns. Coal & Coks
100 Pyrene Manufacturing
100 Richmond Radiator Com. & Pfd.
10 Singer Maoulacturing
100 Savage Arms 2nd Pfd.
100 Texas Pac. Coal & Oil Stk. & "Ris."
100 Texas Pac. Coal & Oil Stk. & "Ris."
100 United Theatre Equip. Com. & Pfd.
25 Winchester Co. Com.
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FINANCIAL NEWS AND THE SITUATION

Seven Per Cent. Discount Rate Is Accepted Readily-What It Means,

LUXURY LOANS CURTAILED

Markets Are Composed and Exhibit Evidences of Basic Strength.

By WILLIAM JUSTUS BOIES,

The Outlook.

The credit situation is being strength-

The country is rapidly adjusting itself rgery is being used to cut out luxury loans and those to support speculative undertakings. The process is orderly but insistent and will relax the strain of redits and enlarge the volume of accommodation available for constructive enterprise. The Reserve Board wisely has not attempted to define non-essen tial loans, leaving bankers free to determine their policies in accordance with the needs of their constituents. It is clear, however, that the campaign against frozen credits will not be permitted to curtail production or cause unnecessary hardship. The country needs to increase its industrial output shead of everything else and provide funds to sustain agencies of production. But speculative borrowings must be re-duced because they contribute many more million dollars of frezen credit than are represented by delayed merchandise shipments along the rights of way. Warehouses in almost every large city contain foodstuffs, provisions and merchandise held for higher prices. Even the carrying over last year's wheat crop at current prices represents tying up more than \$275,000,000.

Releasing Credit.

As that collateral is marketed, credits will be released for essential enter-prises and commodity prices will be re-duced to levels which will induce con-sumption. The net result will be beneficial to banks and their customers be-cause the advancing price movement could not continue without injury to the Prof Kemmerer has pointed out in the current Review of Bankers Statistics current Review of Bankers Statistics Corporation that in the six years, from 1913 to 1919, the physical volume of business increased 9.6 per cent, the monetary circulation 71 per cent, and bank deposits 120 per cent. The cash reserve against those deposits declined from 11% per cent in 1913 to less than 6% per cent in 1919, taking in opera-tions of all banks and trust companies in the country. It is easy to see theren the country. It is easy to see therefore that the upward price movement was fast reaching a point at which the credit structure would be imperilled and evils causing social unrest were increas

ing.
The country does not possess the gold basis sufficient to sustain any such volume of indebtedness and finance at the same time the rapid increase in business activity. With \$3,107,021,000 of Federal Reserve notes outstanding-a record total-and the harvesting season about to open, the banks were con-fronted with conditions which obliged the Federal Reserve authorities to check inflation and prevent further over-expansion of bank credits. The conse-quence was the unexpected announcement of a 7 per cent, rediscount rate, which, to this community, seemed highly sensational. It has been effective, however. In curbing unnecessary borrowings and in causing merchants to offer sufficient price concessions to insure the quick marketing of immense stocks of high priced merchandise.

With that liquidation, acute as it has een, has come relief and borrowers and lenders have been impressed with the necessity of apportioning credit where i will serve best the community's interests The naming of a 7 per cent, discount rate by the New York Reserve Bank means that the average borrower must pay 715 or 8 per cent for accommoda-Even at those rates the banks will lend only for productive purposes, taking care to avoid speculative under takings or loans sought for non-essen tial undertakings. The banks will b onfronted a month hence with essential demands for harvesting funds, likely to be unusually heavy owing to a record outlay for wages and other expenses to which producers will be subject this year. The need is urgent because many Western banks have had to carry their customers over the year and cannot extend the facilities that they usually do in July. Much of that demand will fall on the banks of New York, Philadel-phia, Boston and other cities because the demand is urgent and must be pro-vided first of all. New York banks are prepared to supply it and, to care for all necessary requirements, they are trying to strengthen their reserves and in-sure comfortable fall money market con-

Heavy Dividends.

Semi-annual disbursements also are to be provided for toward the close of this ionth. They will probably exceed \$300, 0,000, which, with \$250,000,000 of payments during June, will mean a total disbursement of \$550,000,000 for interest and dividends alone. These demands are unusually heavy, owing to large interest payments for Liberty bonds. July is usually a season of important financing and because of the pressure for reconstruction loans, the probability is that the flotations next month will be ex ceptionally large. The railroads are doing important financing on their own account through large sales of equipment trust certificates, which have proved very popular with the public. There probably will be many more of those loans as well as important financing by industrial corporations, which have plant extensions to arrange for as soon as it shall be possible to obtain structural steel and necessary help. Several important housing schemes must be provided for, as the country is still heavily short of dwellings, which accounts in part for the relatively high rentals which prevall everywhere and are an important factor in the burdensome living ex penses. Those demands relate to highly essential undertakings and although they cannot be financed with bank credi they add to the strain, temporarily a

Stock Market Response. The stock market interpreted the sharp advance in rediscount rates as calcu lated to strengthen the bank position and relieve the credit strain. The striking rise, however, provided a sufficient test, because had the announcement test, because had the announcement come at a time of feverish trading with broad public speculation, there might have been a sharp reaction with serious liquidation. As it was the market scarcely declined at all and after the news had been thoroughly digested there was a good advance, which showed that the market was well liquidated and that it had not been disturbed unduly by the news. There was, furthermore, little change in money rates and, what was more important, slightly larger offerings of time accommodation of time accommodation.

The Street was not alarmed by the 1914 move and took a conservatively optimis-

tic view of the future. It was thought that the advance only put the Reserve extended to three times their normal Bank rates on a level with the open life by non-delivery of freight and inmarket rates and with the Bank of England's minimum discount rate. The Kansas City Reserve Bank has charged some borrowers as high as 15 per cent to rediscount paper, using the graduated to raircad managers instructing them

some borrowers as high as 15 per cent to rediscount paper, using the graduated to railroad managers instructing them to get busy at once with their own roads and see that the cars were restricted by the Reserve banks of Dallas, St. Louis and Atlanta, but no other institutions so far have accepted it. Graduated rates are permitted by the amendment to the Federal Reserve act in cases in which the Reserve Board approves the change. A graduated charge is preferred by many on the ground that it is much fairer to penalize reckless borrowers by subjecting them to a higher rate than it is a converge. adment to the Federal Reserve act awaiting chipment from Pittsburg and borrowers by subjecting them to a higher rate than it is to announce a strengthened as soen as the wage in-creases shall be granted by the Central Labor Board, in session in Washington Under the law rate increases cannot norizontal advance applying to con-servative and reckless borrowers alike. become effective before September 1. It is possible, however, that wages will be advanced before that time. If such ened by the paying off of loans based on merchandise held up in the freight blockincreases be made rate increases large enough to cover losses sustained in the ade. That congestion is less serious than it was and, although conditions are far meantime will be necessary.

Relieving Blockade.

from normal, merchandise shipments are being expedited with larger deliveries of material long held in the freight block-ade. As those conditions are relieved blockade and relieve the credit strain

not sufficient rolling stock to take care offering a new issue of \$750,000 of 7 of the country's growing business. The per cent, cumulative sinking fund preshortage is large enough to cause great ferred stock at \$98 a share, to net 7.15 fic facilities. That situation is clearly understood, and indications are that conditions will improve and the fall for-

plications encountered.

High grade bonds still are available for near the year's lowest prices and Liberty bonds are obtainable for prices which ought to appeal strongly to dis-criminating investors. Notwithstanding conditions which prevail in the investment market and the worldwide strain on credit, there is no doubt that a United States Government bond will take its place ultimately as the world's premier security. Future generations will look back on prevailing conditions and wonder why an intelligent public could be so unmindful of the investment opportunity of several genera-

will be much better. Railroads have chemical and mechanical products, is

understood, and indications are that con- L. Driver, its president, states that its ditions will improve and the fall finan- 1919 net profits, after taxes, were more cisi strain be not as serious as many than four times dividend requirements, have feared it would be, in view of comyears before taxes averaged more than five times its dividend requirements. Of the new issue \$250,000 has been re-

served for employees and stockholders. Of the amount 75 per cent, has been sub-

100 FAMILIES FLEE FIRE.

Flames Wreck Factory and Threaten Dozen Tenement Houses.

A dozen tenement houses in First avenue, from Thirty-seventh to Thirtythan two hours yesterday morning by a tions.

DRIVER-HARRIS ISSUES STOCK.

Company Pats Out \$750,000 of Its

Preferred Stock.

The Driver-Harris Company of Harrison, N. J., manufacturer of electrical.

The damage was estimated at \$100,000.

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Philadelphia

TOTAL TRANSCATIONS IN THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE 19	ade. As the	one condition	are relieved blockade and improve, be the business an	relieve the credit st	rain The Driver-Harris Com- ions rison, N. J., manufacturer	pany of Har- ordered from th	neir homes by thas estimated at	\$100,000.
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